GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1071
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2005
STARVATION DEATHS
Jha Shri Raghunath;Kamat Shri Gurudas

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of starvation deaths have been reported in the country during the recent months;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor, State-wise;

(c) the policy of the Government for the prevention of starvation deaths; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to implement the Dr. Swaminathan report on starvation deaths?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. No starvation death has been reported by any State Government/Union Territory so far.

(c): To ensure food security for all, Central Government introduced Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in June, 1997. An allocation of 271.00 lakh tonnes and 273.00 lakh tonnes of subsidized foodgrains was made to States/Union Territories during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively for Below Poverty Line including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families under the TPDS. Foodgrains are also provided to 2.5 crore poorest of the poor households under AAY at a highly subsidized rate of Rs. 2/- per kg. for Wheat and Rs. 3/- per kg. for Rice.

Besides this, subsidized foodgrains are also allocated to States/Union Territories under various Welfare Schemes, administered and monitored by different Central Ministries & Departments. A quantity of 224.58 lakh tonnes and 141.30 lakh tonnes of foodgrains was allocated to States/Union Territories for the year 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively under various Welfare Schemes, e.g., Mid Day Meal Scheme, Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY), National Food for Work Programme, SC/ST/OBC Hostels/Welfare Institutions, Annapurna Wheat Based Nutrition Programme, etc.

(d): No such report has been received in this Department.